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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ISTI-  
TUTO DI RICERCHE DI BIOLOGIA MOLECO-  
LARE P ANGELETTI SPA [IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM  
30.600, I-00040 Pomezia (Rome) (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): COLARUSSO, Ste-  
fania [IT/IT]; IRBM, Via Pontina KM 30.600, I-00040  
Pomezia (Rome) (IT). NARJES, Frank [DE/IT]; IRBM,  
Via Pontina KM 30.600, I-00040 Pomezia (Rome) (IT).

(74) Agent: MAN, Jocelyn; Merck & Co., Inc., European  
Patent Department, Terlings Park, Eastwick Road, Harlow  
Essex CM20 2QR (GB).

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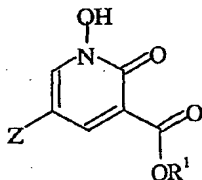
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(54) Title: PYRIDINE N-OXIDES AS ANTIVIRAL AGENTS



(I)

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to pyridinone derivatives of formula (I) wherein Z represents C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl, aryl or het-  
eroaryl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted, and R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-7</sub> heterocycloalkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,  
di(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkylcarbonyloxy(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl or C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkoxycarbonyloxy(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, and pharmaceutically ac-  
ceptable salts thereof, useful in the prevention and treatment of hepatitis C virus infections.

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